

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-02 OES-03 IO-11 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05

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R 190654Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2241

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: TBIO PDIP WHO VS RP VN

SUBJ: DRV HEALTH DELEGATION VISITS WHO OFFICE IN MANILA

REF: 75 MANILA 12458 AND PREVIOUS

1. A THREE- MEMBER NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION CONSULTED
WITH THE WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA
DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY ON WHO ASSISTANCE IN
REBUILDING THE DRV NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AND IN
ERADICATING COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS MALARIA AND
TUBERCULOSIS WHICH ARE MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS IN NORTH
VIETNAM. THE DELEGATION CONSISTED OF DR. HOANG DINH CAU,
VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH; DR. PHAM THE, VICE CHIEF,
HYGIENE EPIDEMIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH; AND
MISS LE THI THU HA, AN INTERPRETER FROM THE DRV FOREIGN
OFFICE. THE DRV VISIT WAS GIVEN FRONT PAGE TREATMENT,
INCLUDING A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MEETING, IN THE FEBRUARY 3
ISSUE OF THE TIMES JOURNAL.

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2. ACCORDING TO A WHO CONTACT, THE MEETING WAS THE NORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN WHO AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR HEALTH PROGRAMS. THE AGREED RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN THE DRAFT 1978-79 WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED THIS FALL

AT THE ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING. THE DRV HAS PLAYED A NORMAL ROLE IN THE WHO REGIONAL ORGANIZATION SINCE IT BECAME A MEMBER OF WHO IN 1973. SOUTH VIETNAM IS STILL A MEMBER BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEND A DELEGATION TO MANILA FOR CONSULTATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE WHO CONTACT, THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES WITHNO DIFFICULTY TO HANOI AND SAIGON. IT HAS HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS WITH CAMBODIA SINCE MARCH OF 1975, HOWEVER.

3. THE DRV VISIT OCCURRED DURING THE MIDST OF THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING, AND IT WOULD HAVE GONE UNNOTICED EXCEPT FOR THE TIMES JOURNAL STORY. WHO NORMALLY DOES NOT ISSUE PRESS RELEASES ON SUCH CONSULTATIONS.

4. COMMENT: SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE DRV MISSION WAS STRICTLY HEALTH, DID NOT PERFORM ANY DIPLOMATIC CHORES. QUESTION OF GOP RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM REMAINS ON ICE AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE LAST YEAR'S ABORTIVE MANGILA MISSION.
(SEE REFTEL)
SULLIVAN

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